

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 16178.0003U1
APPLICATION NO. 09/742,091

CLAIMS AS AMENDED

1. A collaborative browsing system for a computer network comprising network servers hosting a plurality of network sites, comprising:
 - a main server bi-directionally connected to the computer network, the main server containing a cell manager for grouping locations of the network sites into server-defined cells; and
 - a plurality of client programs bi-directionally connected to the main server via the network and each connected to at least one of the network sites,wherein said main server enables a first one of the client programs connected to a network site in one of the ~~server-defined~~ cells to identify a second one of the client programs and to form a session with that second client program that collaboratively browses the network sites, and
 - wherein the main server stores a location of the network site to which the session is connected.
2. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein the main server enables a client program connected to a network site in one of the ~~server-defined~~ cells to identify at least two additional client programs among the plurality of client programs and to form the session with said additional client programs.
3. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein the client programs in the session follow a session leader.
4. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein each client program in the session can communicate with other client programs in the session.
5. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 3, wherein each client program in the session can communicate with other client programs in other sessions in the one ~~server-defined~~ cell.
6. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein each client program in the session can communicate with other client programs in other sessions in the one ~~server-~~

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~~defined~~ cell.

7. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein the main server sends advertisements to at least one client program.
8. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 3, wherein any client program in the session can act as a session leader.
9. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 3, wherein all client programs in the session can act as session leaders.
10. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein the computer network is the Internet.
11. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 10, wherein the network sites are Web sites.
12. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 11, wherein the locations are each identified by a Universal Resource Locator code.
13. A collaborative browsing system according to claim 12, wherein the one ~~server-defined~~ cell is comprised of a plurality of locations each having a corresponding Universal Resource Locator code.
14. In a computer network comprising a plurality of network servers hosting a plurality of network sites, a method of collaboratively browsing the network by a plurality of client programs connected to the network, comprising:

defining a plurality of cells by a cell manager, each cell comprising at least one location of a network site in the computer network;

communicating to a first client program connected to a first network site in one of the ~~server-defined~~ cells information identifying a second client program which is connected to a second network site in the one ~~server-defined~~ cell;

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receiving a request from the first client program to form a first session together with the second client program to collaboratively browse the network sites;

assigning the first and second client programs to a first session which collaboratively browses the network sites; and

sending a current location of a network site to which the first session is connected to all client programs in the session.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the first network site is the second network site.

16. The method according to claim 14, further comprising assigning one of the first and second client programs as a group leader.

17. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:
assigning a plurality of network site locations to a cell;
tracking the first session and a plurality of other sessions in the cell; and
informing client programs in the first session of other client programs in the other sessions in the cell.

18. The method according to claim 14, further including causing the client programs in the first session to follow the first session when the first session changes a network site to which it is connected.

19. A method of collaboratively browsing a network according to claim 14, wherein one of the client programs communicates with another client program in the first session.

20. A method of collaboratively browsing a network according to claim 14, wherein one of the individual client programs in the first session communicates with a client program in one of the other sessions in the cell.